Task Force on Key Concepts and Definitions of Migration

Activity report April – June 2019 and call for input to next steps

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Co-chair of the Task Force
Introduction

• Second task force established within the Expert Group on Migration Statistics (EGMS) and thus often referred to as Task Force 2 (TF2)
• Main aim: review of the concepts and definitions of migration
• Composition:
  • 5 countries (Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom)
  • 7 international organizations (Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNFPA, UNODC, UNPD, UNSD)
  • 3 academic experts
  • Co-chaired by Eurostat and UNSD
Tentative timetable of the TF2

• **May – October 2019**: global survey aiming to identify relevant features for the definition of international migration.

• **October 2019 – June 2020**: work on alternative or refined definitions of relevant migration concepts.

• **June – October 2020**: global consultation on a draft document on concepts and definitions that will feed into the revision of the 1998 Recommendations.

• **October – November 2020**: updating the draft document following global consultation.

• **March 2021**: submission to the UNSC Commission by UNSD
Activities April – June 2019

• Terms of Reference
  • To advance a proposal on the definition of international migration/migrant, covering related concepts as well
  • Linkage with population definition

• Questionnaire for global survey on migration definitions applied in the countries
  • It covers (partially) national practices and data sources as well
  • On-line submission (via SurveyMonkey)
EGMS split in two discussion groups (and possibly again in smaller sub-groups):

- Group 1 reviewing the questionnaire
- Group 2 brainstorming on alternative definitions of migration
Questions to the EGMS members – Group 1

• **On the questionnaire (you should have it):**
  • How to reach the ‘target population’? Only NSOs, all bodies in charge of migration statistics, others?
    • Currently envisaged approach: transmission to NSOs only, but to be forwarded by the NSO to the relevant national institutions
  • Should the unit of analysis be the country, the institution or what else?
    • Currently envisaged approach: each questionnaire is a unit; only one questionnaire per institution.
  • Are there redundant and/or missing questions?
  • Should some questions be formulated differently?
  • Is the list of concepts related to migration comprehensive enough?
  • Any other improvement you may think of...
Questions to the EGMS members – Group 2

• **On the alternative definitions of migration:**
  - What are the features that you see relevant in the concept of migration and that should be taken into account in its definition?
    - e.g., personal characteristics, reference to geographic moves, family/social relations, purpose of migration, etc.
  - What would be your definition of migration?
    - Creative thinking is welcomed
  - How your definition would fit in the demographic balance?
    - Would additional categories (other than ‘migration proper’) be needed?
    - Would the definition of population change?
  - What are the pros and cons of your proposal?
  - Which data sources could/should be used?
Thank you!

Would you like to join the TF2, please contact the UNSD secretariat:

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